

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION



**ALLIGATOR FARMER LICENSE**  
Application

**Cost: \$1,000.00**

**Valid: Oct 1 – Sept 30**

PRINT OR TYPE ONLY - INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Hm (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Wk (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cl (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (list additional partners on back in same format)

(1) Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Hm (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Wk (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cl (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

For Business purposes, completing this entire section is required.

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fed ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Business Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit:** (1) **completed application**, (2) **check or money order**, and (3) **copy of driver's license for EACH APPLICANT** to: Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Div., Attn: License Sales, PO Box 301456, Montgomery, AL 36130-1456, or by walk-in or express mail requests: 64 N Union Street, Ste 567, 36104. Questions: (334) 242-3465 or [joeanne.stjohn@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:joeanne.stjohn@dcnr.alabama.gov)

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be excluded from any list of names sold by ADCNR, please check this box [ ]

C.E.O. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Radio: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) **DCNR IS NOW REQUIRED BY SECTION 30-3-194(A) CODE OF ALABAMA 1975 TO COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS ON ALL RECREATIONAL LICENSES BEING ISSUED/RENEWED.**

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**Section 9-12-200**

**Definitions.**

For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings described herein, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) ALLIGATOR FARM. An enclosed area not located on public lands or waters, constructed so as to prevent the ingress and egress of *alligators* from surrounding public or private lands or waters and meeting other specifications prescribed by the department, where alligators are bred and raised under controlled conditions.
- (2) ALLIGATOR FARMER. A person who raises alligators under controlled conditions which prohibit free movement of the animals onto and off of the farm or controlled area, and who may harvest alligators under the supervision of the department.
- (3) ALLIGATOR PART. Any part of the carcass of an alligator, except its skin.
- (4) ALLIGATOR PARTS DEALER. Any person who deals in alligator parts and who buys from an alligator farmer for the purpose of resale; or manufactures within the state alligator parts into a finished product; or purchases, cans, processes, or distributes alligator meat for wholesale or retail; provided, that a retailer selling canned alligator parts or a retailer purchasing alligator parts from an alligator parts dealer or a restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall not be classified as an alligator parts dealer.
- (5) COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- (6) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- (7) TRANSPORT. In its different tenses, the act of shipping, attempting to ship, receiving or delivering for shipment, transporting, conveying, carrying, or exporting by air, land, or water, or by any means whatsoever.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §1.)*

**Section 9-12-201**

**Who may engage in business of propagating alligators.**

Any person, firm, or corporation may engage in the business of propagating alligators on an alligator farm for restocking, propagation, and other commercial purposes by complying with the provisions of this article, and may thereafter sell either live alligators to other licensed alligator farmers only, or the parts or skins of such farm-raised alligators to any person, for any purpose, including sale for food, either within or without this state.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §2.)*

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**Section 9-12-202**

**License; fee.**

Whoever desires to engage in the business of raising, exhibiting, and selling alligators on alligator farms shall apply to the department for a license to do so. If it appears that the application is made in good faith, upon payment of \$1,000.00, an alligator farmer license may be issued permitting the applicant to breed, propagate, exhibit and sell to other licensed alligator farmers only, such alligators alive, or sell their skins and parts and to kill and transport them and sell their skins and parts as herein provided.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §3.)*

**Section 9-12-203**

**Expiration and renewal of license; fee.**

Alligator farmer licenses shall expire on the thirtieth day of September of each year. On or before the first day of October of the following year, every licensee shall apply for a renewal of his license. In conjunction with this application, the licensee shall provide a report including all information as specified by the department. Upon payment of \$1,000.00, the department shall renew his license.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §4.)*

**Section 9-12-204**

**Marketing or taking of alligators; rules and regulations; tagging; affidavit; transportation of carcass.**

Alligators raised on such licensed breeding farms may be sold alive to other licensed alligator farmers only, or taken for their skins or for food, according to such rules and regulations as the department may promulgate. All skins shall be tagged according to rules and regulations of the department. The severance tax, as provided in Section 9-12-210, shall be paid before the raw alligator skins are sold or shipped within or without the state, and a written affidavit as to the number and kinds of skins sold or shipped shall be furnished to the department as specified. No alligator carcass or parts intended for sale shall be shipped, transported, sold, or offered for sale unless tagged according to department regulations.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §5.)*

**Section 9-12-205**

**Property rights.**

Whoever under the authority of this article has in his lawful possession any such alligators or parts thereof on such posted or fenced alligator farm shall have a property right therein and shall be the owner thereof. Whoever enters the alligator farm and catches, takes, or attempts to catch or take such alligators when the area has been posted or fenced according to law shall be punished as though the alligators were ordinary domestic animals and subject to the property rights of the State of Alabama.

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*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §6.)*

**Section 9-12-206**

**Alligator parts dealer license; retail and restaurant license; fees.**

(a) Each alligator parts dealer shall secure an alligator parts dealer license from the department before commencing business. The license shall be secured annually and shall be furnished upon the payment of \$100.00.

(b) Each retailer selling canned alligator parts or purchasing alligator parts, and each restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall secure a license from the department before commencing business. The license shall be secured annually and shall be furnished upon payment of \$5.00.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §7.)*

**Section 9-12-207**

**Alligator parts transaction forms; bills of sale; inspection; records.**

(a) Any licensed alligator farmer may sell alligator carcasses or parts, provided he completes an official alligator parts transaction form, furnished by the department, for every alligator parts transaction. These forms shall be submitted to the department at 30-day intervals until all parts are sold.

(b) Any alligator parts dealer purchasing alligator parts, other than skins, shall complete an official alligator parts transaction form for each purchase. Any alligator parts dealer selling alligator parts, other than skins, shall complete an official alligator parts sale form for each sale. These forms shall be furnished by the department and shall be submitted to the department at 30-day intervals until final disposition of all parts. Each alligator farmer and parts dealer shall furnish a bill of sale to each retailer or restaurant purchasing alligator parts.

(c) Any retailer or restaurant purchasing alligator parts shall maintain a bill of sale for each purchase for a period of six months after such purchase. These records shall be available for inspection at any and all reasonable hours by the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, his law enforcement officers or any other persons appointed and designated by him for such purpose.

(d) The records of transaction involving alligator parts of alligator farmers and parts dealers shall be available for inspection at any and all reasonable hours by the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, his law enforcement officers or any other persons appointed and designated by him for such purpose. Each parts dealer shall maintain complete records for a period of one year following any transaction.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §8.)*

Code of Alabama  
Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer & Parts Dealer

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**Section 9-12-208**

**Alligator parts tag.**

Each alligator farmer shall tag with an official alligator parts tag, furnished by the department, all carcasses, meat, or nonedible alligator parts prior to sale and upon dissection from the carcass. This tag shall be completed in full and remain attached to the carcass or part until final disposition by the alligator farmer, parts dealer, or consumer if purchased directly from an alligator farmer.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §9.)*

**Section 9-12-209**

**Shipment of alligator skins; tags.**

All raw alligator skins shipped within this state shall be tagged so as to show the number and kinds of skins in the shipment, the consignor, shipping point, consignee, and destination. The department shall supply suitable tags to all shippers requiring them for actual shipments. No alligator skin intended for shipment within this state shall be accepted by any post office, express company, or agent, or the agent of any common carrier, unless there is attached to one of the packages composing the shipment to each consignee one of the tags specified herein.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §10.)*

**Section 9-12-210**

**Severance tax on alligator skins; penalty.**

There is hereby levied a severance tax on each alligator skin taken from any alligator within this state, payable to the state through the department by the alligator farmer selling or shipping his skins within or without the state or taking his own catch out of state, at the rate of \$1.00 on each skin. Failure to pay such severance tax subjects all alligator skins held by such alligator farmers to confiscation by order of the department. Failure to maintain complete records and to pay the severance tax as provided herein subjects any alligator farmer to the full penalties provided in this article and the immediate revocation of his license by the department. No license shall be issued to any alligator farmer who has not paid such severance tax for the preceding year. Violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §11.)*

**Section 9-12-211**

**Taking or possession of alligators, eggs, parts or skins prohibited except as provided; applicability of section; penalty.**

No person shall take or possess the eggs of alligators, alligators, or their parts or skins in any county of this state except as provided for in this article, and the provisions of this section shall not apply to legal finished products, alligators or parts thereof legally acquired prior to May 17, 1989, or alligators harvested or collected under a permit from the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Violation of this section is a Class C felony.

Code of Alabama  
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*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §12.)*

**Section 9-12-212**

**Disbursement of license fees and taxes.**

All license fees and taxes resulting from the provisions of this article shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Game and Fish Fund of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §13.)*

**Section 9-12-213**

**Effect of federal endangered species status.**

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, in the event the federal government places the alligator in an endangered species status, all licenses issued pursuant to this article shall be null and void upon the earlier of the following dates: (1) the expiration date of said licenses or (2) one year from the date that the federal government placed the alligator in an endangered species status.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §14)*

**Section 9-12-214**

**Violations; forfeiture of property and license; eligibility for new license.**

Any person licensed as an alligator farmer under Section 9-12-202 convicted of violating any of the provisions of this article shall have his license cancelled and all alligators, alligator parts, and alligator skins in his possession shall be forfeited to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. These shall be disposed of by the department through public auction and the proceeds thereof deposited in the Game and Fish Fund. Any alligator farmer having his license so cancelled will be ineligible to purchase such a license for a period of five years. After five years, said person may purchase an alligator farmer license only on written recommendation of the Director of the Game and Fish Division of the department.

*(Acts 1989, No. 89-874, p. 1749, §15.)*

**220-2-.96 Alligator Farming Regulations**

**(1) GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR TAKING, POSSESSION AND SALE OF CERTAIN REPTILES:**

(a) No person shall buy, sell, take or possess any alligator, crocodile, or any part thereof, or the nests or eggs of any alligator or crocodile except under permit from the Department or as otherwise provided by law or by these regulations.

(b) Nothing in this rule, however, shall prohibit the possession of lawfully acquired cured and mounted trophies and articles manufactured from the skins or hides or other parts of alligators and crocodiles.

(c) Any alligator, crocodile, or similar reptile, or any part thereof, seized or otherwise acquired by the Department may be sold.

## Code of Alabama

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## Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer &amp; Parts Dealer

(d) Alligators, or any parts thereof, lawfully obtained outside the state may be imported only under permit from the director or as otherwise provided by law.

(e) The records of individuals or concerns selling any species of crocodilian will be subject to inspection and such individuals or concerns shall have in their possession invoices or other documentary evidence of the suppliers of such crocodilians. The advertisement or representation of caimans as alligators or crocodiles is prohibited.

(f) No person shall use, be in possession of or attend any hook, peg or other such device baited in such a manner as to be capable of taking alligators and suspended so that the bait is above water or submerged in a manner to take or attempt to take alligators unless such person is authorized by the Director.

**(2) REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF ALLIGATOR FARMS:**

Alligator farms may be established and operated and alligators, eggs, and hides may be possessed only under license by the Department subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

**(a) General Provisions:**

1. The premises of alligator farms shall be subject to inspection by Department personnel at any time.
2. Complete written records of all changes in alligator stock shall be kept and made available for examination by Department personnel. Shipping tickets, invoices or bills of lading shall be maintained to show source of supply and disposition of alligator stock.
3. No licensee or his or her employee shall receive or transfer any alligator, eggs or hides except as provided by Act No. 89-874, 1989 Regular Session.
4. The licensee shall disclose ownership of alligators and provide documentation of inventory of initial and subsequent numbers of all alligator eggs and alligators, including breeding females and offspring. Documentation shall be sufficient to demonstrate the inventory is commensurate with production and survival levels for captive populations as measured against professionally accepted biological standards.
5. Permits to establish and operate alligator farms are not transferable.
6. The licensee shall provide security of facility premises necessary to ensure that no alligators, eggs or parts thereof can be moved in or out of the alligator farm without the licensee's knowledge.
7. An Alligator Farm Annual Report shall be completed and submitted to the Department's Game and Fish Division-Law Enforcement Section prior to annual re-licensing.
8. Alligator farm permittees shall be licensed at an annual fee of \$1,000.00 as required by Act No. 89-874, 1989 Regular Session.
9. The Department shall not issue an alligator farm permit to any person who has been

## Code of Alabama

www.legislature.state.al.us

## Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer &amp; Parts Dealer

convicted of any violation of Act No. 89-874 or the rules of the Department relating to the illegal taking of any crocodilian species, except as provided in Act No. 89-874.

## (b) Specifications for alligator farms:

1. Pens or holding facilities shall be constructed in a manner to prevent the escape of any alligator contained in such pen or facility or entrance by any alligator from outside such pen or facility.
2. The permittee shall provide rearing tanks (of concrete, fiberglass, plastic or metal construction) for alligators less than four (4) feet in length. Alligators less than two (2) feet in length shall be housed separately from those two (2) to four (4) feet in length. Onsite propagation facilities will also provide ponds, nest sites and spacing for breeding adults and artificial incubators.
3. The licensee shall make all alligator eggs produced on the farm available for inspection by August 1 of each nesting year. All alligator eggs shall be in containers having not more than one layer of eggs at one incubation facility on each alligator farm. Only viable alligator eggs will be credited to the egg inventory.
4. Alligator farm licensees shall furnish alligators housing of sufficient size and design such that alligators shall be kept in a humane and sanitary manner.

## (c) Facility Standards:

1. General. The most important factor in establishing an alligator farm is the acquisition of enough suitable land and habitat to support a population of adult alligators in outside breeding ponds and adequate area for the construction of holding houses for young alligators up to three years of age. There must be a reliable source of fresh water and equipment for pumping and changing water.
2. Breeding ponds shall be fenced around the perimeters with woven wire or board fences of sufficient height (minimum, 4 feet) and tightness, constructed so as to prevent the escape or entrance of any size alligator. Fences shall be buried or otherwise secured at the bottom so as to prevent entrance or escape. Breeding ponds must have at least one area of a minimum depth of 1.8 meters (approximately 6 feet at its deepest point) and suitable nesting sites.
3. Holding houses containing an adequate number of artificial tanks will be provided for growing out small alligators six feet or less in length. A sufficient number of tanks will be provided to allow for segregation by age/size classes, and each tank will be permanently numbered to facilitate accurate record keeping. There shall be sufficient space in each tank for all the alligators to completely submerge under water at one time and enough "dry" area in which to run around for basking purposes. A properly constructed tank will consist of 2/3 water for 1/3 "dry" area. The overall size of tank will depend upon the number of alligators held, but as a general standard each alligator shall have enough space to submerge without having contact with another alligator.
4. Holding tanks will be designed to permit periodic cleaning of waste and a complete change of water at regular intervals (at least every other day).



## Code of Alabama

www.legislature.state.al.us

## Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer &amp; Parts Dealer

5. A controlled environmental chamber complete with an artificial nesting area (incubator) will be provided for hatching of eggs. The chamber will also contain a sufficient number of holding tanks to accommodate anticipated hatchlings and to provide a suitable environment for new-born alligators.

## (d) Harvest of Alligators:

1. Alligators, at least four feet in length, or the skins or products of such captive-reared alligators raised on a farm licensed under the provisions of Act No. 89-874, 1989 Regular Session, may be sold, and, with written approval from the Department, an alligator farmer may utilize any product from a captive-reared alligator less than four feet in length that dies from natural causes, but only in accordance with the following restrictions:
  - i. No farmer shall skin any alligator unless such alligator shall have been approved for skinning in writing by the Director of the Game and Fish Division or his authorized agent. Records must be provided to verify that each alligator to be harvested was hatched and captive-reared on the farm or otherwise obtained from a legal source.
  - ii. Any alligator killed under authority of this section shall be tagged immediately with a tag furnished by the Department. Such tag shall remain attached to the alligator hide until finally processed by the fabricator. It shall be unlawful for any farmer or processor to possess untagged alligator hides.
  - iii. Property rights to identifying tags issued to the farmer shall be vested in the Department, and tags shall remain the property of the State. Unused tags shall be returned to the Department within 15 days of completion of the harvest. Possession of any identifying alligator tags by persons other than licensed farmers shall be unlawful.
  - iv. Alligators shall be skinned only at a specific site approved by the Director of the Game and Fish Division and shall be skinned only in accordance with special skinning instructions issued by the Department. Only those hides which have been skinned in accordance with these instructions shall be approved for sale. Hides so taken may be held at the specified skinning site until the date of the sale.
  - v. The meat of any alligator legally harvested may be consumed by the farmer or his immediate family but shall not be sold or transferred except as provided in this rule below.

## (e) Sale of Live Alligators:

1. Alligator farmers licensed under the provisions of Act No. 89-874, 1989 Regular Session, may sell, barter, exchange, give or loan any live alligators of at least four feet in length covered by his license provided a permit is first obtained from the Department. If sold, bartered, or exchanged in interstate commerce or foreign trade, legal requirements of the state or country involved in the transaction must also be satisfied.
2. The request for such permits must contain the name and address of the proposed

## Code of Alabama

www.legislature.state.al.us

## Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer &amp; Parts Dealer

buyer, a reference to the buyer's license number or other authority for possession, and shall further describe the alligator(s) by length, belly. size, and sex, if known.

## (f) Sale of Alligator Meat:

1. Alligator meat that is lawfully acquired through production on a licensed alligator farm may be sold to wholesale or retail food distributors, food and nonfood meat processors, restaurants and canneries, provided that:
  - i. Any alligator meat sold to the above type business shall be packaged in cardboard cartons, and each carton shall be sealed with a label as specified by the Department that indicates that it contains alligator meat, the number of pounds of meat enclosed, the names of the seller and buyer, the tag number corresponding to the alligator hide from which the meat was taken, and the date of sale. No more than five pounds of meat shall be included per carton and cartons shall be used only one time.
  - ii. Failure to properly mark cartons of alligator meat or possession of alligator meat in cartons improperly marked shall be considered a violation.
  - iii. Alligator farmers shall maintain written records of all alligator meat sales on standard forms supplied by the Department. These records shall be open to inspection by Department personnel and shall include for each carton of meat sold the data indicated on the carton label as specified in subparagraph (f) 1. (i) of this rule.
  - iv. All alligator meat purchased by the type business listed hereinabove shall be retained in original carton until the meat is prepared for consumption or processing.
  - v. All cartons containing alligator meat labeled in accordance with these regulations shall be shipped only within the State of Alabama or to those states or countries allowing the sale of alligator meat.
  - vi. Alligator farmers handling alligator meat for human consumption shall comply with the sanitation requirements of federal, state, or local authorities.

## (g) Sale of Alligator Hides and Other Products:

1. Alligator hides and other products, except meat, may be sold in accordance with the following:
  - i. Alligator farmers may sell the hides, feet, viscera or skeletal parts of alligators when all such sales, with the exception of retail sales to the consumer, are documented to show the kind and quantity of items sold and the name and address of each buyer (and, in addition, the alligator parts dealer license number if sold for resale). Any packaged alligator parts must be sealed with a Department approved label that indicates the hide tag number(s) of the alligator(s) from which the parts came, the names and

Code of Alabama

www.legislature.state.al.us

Alligator Farmer; includes Retailer & Parts Dealer

addresses of the buyer and seller, the date of the sale, and the number and kind of parts included.

- ii. Any alligator skull sold shall be permanently visibly labeled with the identifying alligator tag number of the alligator from which the skull was taken and the name of the alligator farmer selling the skull.
- iii. Products made from alligator skins or other alligator parts and documentary evidence of their acquisition shall be available for inspection upon requests of Department personnel.
- iv. No person shall sell any hide or other product manufactured from a crocodilian species which has been declared to be endangered or threatened by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Statutory Authority: §§ 9-2-7 and 9-2-8, Code of Alabama 1975, and Act No. 89-874, 1989 Regular Session*

**Penalty: As provided by law.**

3/2/90.